

Regional NRM Facilitator Project Summary Report

January 2017 - December 2019

The Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Facilitator is a part time (0.5 FTE) contractor role.

Initiated to assist contributing* member Councils to achieve improved NRM outcomes, the role has added value to the work being done by member Council environmental officers by focusing on addressing issues that are common to multiple Councils such as:

- brokering partnerships
- instigating, coordinating and managing regional scale, multi-stakeholder projects
- leveraging external funding and in-kind contributions that would be otherwise be difficult for individual Councils to identify and consolidate
- engaging with other land managers to improve the coordination and management of natural areas
- actively contributing to the achievement of member Council NRM objectives.

This report summarises key achievements for the 3 year contract from Jan 2017 – Dec 2019.

* *Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle, Kwinana and Melville, and the Town of East Fremantle*

Key Activity Area	Status	Key Outputs	Total project value (includes in-kind)	External Funding Secured	External In-Kind Contributions Secured	
1) Grant Preparation and Project Management						
Grant and project management	Regional Scale Cat Owner Education Program	Ongoing (will conclude late 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant application to State NRM Program prepared on behalf of Cities of Canning, Cockburn, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville and the Town of East Fremantle. Murdoch University & University of South Australia. Leveraged Perth Zoo, WA Biodiversity Science Institute and GoeCatch to join project team to add value. Murdoch Uni engaged to develop wildlife predation and cat welfare themed videos and assess impact of messaging on cat owners. Development of public awareness campaign materials and communications plan is underway, with coordinated awareness campaign to be delivered mid-2020. Lotterywest funding will be sought to add value to the Murdoch Uni videos by expanding content and creating Year 11 & 12 curriculum materials to accompany videos. 	\$288,040	\$27,500 grant \$7,150 City of Canning	\$38,000 City of Canning
	Fox Tracking for Better Fox Trapping project	Ongoing (will conclude late 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant application to State NRM Program prepared on behalf of Cities of Canning, Cockburn, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville & Rockingham and the Town of East Fremantle. Consultant engaged to GPS collar 20 foxes and track movements to inform future trapping programs. 5 foxes have been collared to date. Report will be delivered by October 2020. 	\$174,350	\$47,300 grant \$12,100 Cities of Canning & Rockingham	\$29,150 Cities of Canning & Rockingham
	Myer Foundation Community Capacity Building project	Ongoing (will conclude late 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant application to Sidney Myer Foundation prepared on behalf of Cities of Canning, Fremantle & Melville and the Town of East Fremantle. Support and training offered to >45 Friends groups and community garden groups. Organised and facilitated Friends Group Expo and 7 capacity building training workshops delivered to date. SERCUL engaged to provide intensive support to 6 groups in 	\$329,750	\$68,000 grant \$4,000 City of Canning	\$146,750 City of Canning

			Melville and Fremantle.			
	Work for the Dole (Stage 2)	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with CVA to prepare a proposal to access a second round of Work for the Dole teams to assist member Councils to undertake environmental works. Application was not successful 			
	Ecological Links for Community: Improving biodiversity through community engagement	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant application to State NRM Program prepared on behalf of Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle, Kwinana and Melville and CVA to engage community groups and individuals as volunteers to work with member Councils to restore and enhance the function of coastal, wetland and bushland habitats. Application was not successful 	(\$923,000)	(\$260,000) grant	
	Fauna For Forever project	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant application to State NRM Program prepared on behalf of Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle & Kwinana to undertake fauna surveys at 4 key reserves to inform future management. Liaised with DBCA and consulting ecologists to develop methodology for proposal. Application was not successful 	(\$204,153)	(\$66,163)	
	Perth NRM devolved grants	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with Perth NRM, SERCUL and EMRC to develop proposal to access \$1,000,000 of Lotterywest funds/annum to initiate a pilot (2 year) devolved grant scheme. \$250,000 per annum would be directed into the south west metropolitan area through the SWG. Proposal is to be submitted to Lotterywest in Jan 2020. 	(>\$500,000)	(\$500,000) grant Outcome unknown	
Project management	Tramway Trail	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities continue to build on Lotterywest funding and DBCA in-kind support secured to prepare trail Development Plan and signage strategy for regionally significant, 32km long multi-use trail through the Cities of Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham Signage strategy progressed and logo developed, but objections from City of Cockburn Aboriginal Reference Group have halted signage strategy until objections can be overcome. Awaiting action by City of Cockburn. 			
	Medina Off-road Vehicle	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with City of Kwinana, DBCA and DGLSCI to explore options to improve facilities at Medina Off-road vehicle area 		~\$30,000	

	Area		<p>to decrease incidences of illegal motorcycle and 4WD use in parks and reserves across multiple Councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Minister for Sport & Recreation to lobby for additional resources. Resulted in DLGSCI being granted funds to undertake feasibility study for Medina ORV site. • Reviewed and provided comment on ORV mapping tool and educational materials being developed by DLGSCI. • Contributed to preparation of WALGA ORV Issues Paper 		DLGSCI allocation to Medina ORV area review	
	CVA/SWCDeF project	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides participating Councils with teams of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) volunteers to assist with environmental works. In return for known body of work, CVA channels additional corporate sponsorships and events into participating member Councils. • \$189,000 contributed by participating Councils, SWG and SWCDeF Inc. over last 3 years, which returns \$3 of CVA volunteer time for every \$1 invested. 	\$756,000		\$567,000 CVA volunteer labour

2) Network Facilitation and Coordination						
Coordination and Facilitation	SWG Environmental Forum (formerly South West Reference Group)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 meetings held • Members, particularly Councillors, informed of progress to implement Regional NRM Strategy and contributing their input to, and endorsement of, priority projects and initiatives • Arranged topical guest presenters to attend meetings • 3 meetings included bus tours to visit NRM project sites in member Councils 			
	SWG Natural Areas Management Forum (formerly Regional Parks and Nature Reserves)	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated Forum involving SWG member Councils plus Cities of Canning, Gosnells, Armadale and Mandurah and the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, DBCA, DPLH, Main Roads, WaterCorp & DFES. Meetings incorporate a training component and planning sessions to foster collaboration and coordination between all Forum members. Specialist guest presenters are secured for most meetings and site visits are part of some meetings. • Negotiated City of Mandurah and DFES to join the Forum. • Leveraged Main Roads to re-engage with the Forum, but Main Roads is unable to commit staff on a regular basis due to 			

	<i>Management Forum)</i>		<p>resource constraints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 operational staff meetings and 2 Managers meetings were held in the reporting period. Average attendance is ~25 officers/meeting. • Regional Scale Cat Owner Education Program and Fox Tracking for Better Fox Trapping projects were both initiated through this Forum. 			
	<i>Implementation Working Group</i>	Superseded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated SWG Regional NRM Strategy Implementation Working Group comprised of SWG member Council officers • Function of IWG has been superseded by project-specific teams and SWG Natural Areas Management Forum 			

3) Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing						
Information management and referral	<i>Information and advice</i>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located and referred relevant NRM information onto member Council staff • Scoped, alerted member Council officers to, and provided advice to officers on a range of grant opportunities. • Provided advice to member Council officers on a wide range of NRM matters. • Provided advice to Elected Members on a range of NRM matters including; cat containment and powers available within the Cat Act; Off Road Vehicle management and legislation; management of declared pest animals and weeds; potential carcinogenic risk from glyphosate; non-herbicide weed control options. 			
	<i>Insurance for Volunteers</i>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sought and distributed advice on insurance cover for volunteer groups 			
Training	<i>Visual Fuel Load Assessment Training</i>	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated the development and delivery of 2 tranches (March 2017 and to May 2018) of fuel load assessment training to assist member Councils to manage bushfire risk. • Accessed LGIS funding to subsidise cost for member Council officers • 57 officers from SWG member Councils and SWG Natural Areas Management Forum member organisations have now undertaken the training. • A third round of training will be delivered in Feb 2020. 		\$9,000 LGIS grant	

4) Regional Representation and Influence						
Regional Representation and Influence	Swan NRM Committee	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWG represented on committee of key Federal and State Government NRM agencies, Local Government organisations and other stakeholders (membership consisted of ~30 key organisations) charged with overseeing development and implementation of Swan NRM Strategy encompassing Perth and surrounds • The Regional NRM Facilitator Chaired the Swan NRM Committee from September 2015 to March 2018 when the Committee was disbanded by Perth NRM because PNRM is no longer able to provide an officer to support the Committee. 			
	Light Industry Audit Program	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbied (successfully) for City of Melville (Stage 1) and City of Cockburn (Stage 2) to be included in DBCA/DWER Light Industry Audit project • Represented SWG on Light Industry Audit program working group. 			
	Corrella Control Coordination Group	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented the SWG on DBCA Corrella Control Coordination Group. 			
	State Government Waste Strategy	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and compiled SWG response to State Government's Waste Strategy. 			
	Climate Change Risk and Liability Forum	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented SWG at Climate Change Risk and Liability Forum 			
	Clean Air and Urban Landscape Hub	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented SWG at Clean Air and Urban Landscape (CAUL) biodiversity research priority setting workshop 			
	Urban Tree Canopy Framework	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented SWG at WALGA Urban Tree Canopy Framework workshop 			

	Biophyllic Urbanism Symposium	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented SWG at the Biophyllic Urbanism symposium. 			
	State NRM Conference	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbied for then facilitated workshop at State NRM conference to identify opportunities for regional collaboration 			
	NatureLink Perth	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented the SWG on working group to develop NatureLink Perth, a hub to connect and coordinate a diverse array of stakeholders to champion nature sensitive urban design and nurture a biodiverse and livable city. 			
	Cat & Dog Act Review	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and compiled SWG response to <i>Pause for Paws</i>: review of the WA Cat and Dog Acts 			
	State Government Climate Change Issue Paper	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and compiled SWG response to State Government's Climate Change Issues Paper 			
	State Government Native Vegetation Management Policy	Current	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represented SWG at DWER local government workshop and compiled SWG response to State Government's Native Vegetation Management Policy proposal 			
	WABSI Feral Cat Research Planning	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and provided input to WA Biodiversity Science Institute feral cat research proposal • Leveraged WABSI to participate in SWG Regional Cat Owner Education Program project. 			
	Seed Provenance Research Proposal	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated involvement of SWG member Councils in exploration of potential to partner with DBCA Kings Park Science Branch in seed provenance research. • Partnership was not pursued due to mining company involvement and conflicting ideals. 			

5) Climate Change Adaptation and Coordination ^a						
Climate Change Adaptation and Coordination	Regional Scale Data Acquisition and Analysis	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed SWG member Council remote sensing data needs and appetite to cooperate to acquire and analyse data. Differences in need, preferred analysis methodology and scale prevent collective acquisition and analysis. Represented member Councils on WALGA's working group to improve access to and utilisation of Urban Monitor data and other remote sensing data. Worked with CSIRO, DoP, Landgate & WALGA to determine feasibility of Smart Cities and Suburbs grant application to create an Urban Monitor portal. Insufficient support to pursue application. 			
	WALGA Climate Change Collaborators Network	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended meetings of WALGA Climate Change Collaborators network until that network was disbanded in early 2019. 			
	Swan & Helena Rivers Flood Study	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaised with Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) and the Dept. of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to obtain and review outputs of the Swan & Helena River Flood Study (2019) to determine whether new flood projections had implications for SWG member Councils. Arranged for EMRC and DWER to present the data to the SWG Environmental Forum. 			
	CoastAdapt	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended CoastAdapt training course 			
	Tree Species Vulnerability to Climate Change	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sourced and circulated information on tree species vulnerability to climate change 			
	Photovoltaics	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigated opportunities for photovoltaics with Curtin University Sustainable Policy group 			

^a The Regional NRM Facilitator was asked to trial providing climate change adaption and coordination support to member Councils in 2017, guided by the South West Group Framework for Regional Approach to Climate Change Adaptation (Phase 1) and outcomes of the associated workshop. Uptake from member Councils was limited, so this support was continued on a limited and purely opportunistic basis through 2018 and 2019.